



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Clearwater Ranger District
104 Airport Road
Grangeville, ID 83530
208-983--1950

Salmon River Ranger District
304 Slate Creek Road
White Bird, ID 83554
208-839-2211

File Code: 1950

Date: June 23, 2011

Dear Interested Party:

The Salmon River Ranger District of the Nez Perce National Forest is initiating an environmental analysis for the Adams Camp Wildfire Protection Project. This environmental assessment will analyze and disclose the potential impacts from implementing the proposed project. I am requesting your comments on the proposed Adams Camp Wildfire Protection Project. The project area is located in Idaho County, approximately 15 air miles south of Grangeville, Idaho within the Mill Creek watershed on National Forest System administered lands in portions of T27N, R03E, Sections 13, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27, Boise Meridian (see enclosed map). The project is scheduled for implementation in 2013.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed action is to protect the Adams Camp Area; including the Forest Service Rental Cabin (Nationally Historic Structure), structures, historic infrastructure, the life of residents and visitors, and other private property. The project would not “fire-proof” the project area, but rather reduce the potential for, and intensity of, subsequent wildfire and increase the chance for fire suppression strategy and tactics to be successful.

Desired conditions differ from existing conditions in the following ways:

- Stand structure is now more complex (including ladder fuels) than desired.
- Species composition is increasingly dominated by non-fire resistant, late seral species.
- Stand density is higher than desired and continues to increase with the trend toward climax (tolerant) species dominance.
- Fuel loads are higher than target and are increasing with insect and disease associated tree mortality.
- Forest area is susceptible to high-intensity wildfire, jeopardizing fire fighter and public safety and decreasing the likelihood of successful suppression when wildfire occurs.

Project goals are to:

- Reduce the risk of high-intensity fire.
- Minimize the threat to the historic infrastructure, property, structures, and/or improvements from wildfire.
- Strategically modify vegetation and fuel loadings to minimize potential fire behavior, facilitate fire suppression activities, and increase likelihood of suppression success.
- Reduce the risk of unacceptable wildfire impacts to federal lands and other lands within the project area.
- Reduce fuels along Forest Service road 221 (Grangeville-Salmon) and Forest Service road 309 to allow for egress by residents and visitors, and to allow access by firefighters in the event of a wildfire.
- Move the area toward conditions more resilient and resistant to high-severity fire.

The need for the Proposed Action is generated by the difference between current and desired conditions in the project area.



Proposed Action

The Salmon River Ranger District of the Nez Perce National Forest proposes to initiate the wildfire protection project on approximately 1492 acres by timber harvest and pre-commercial thinning in the Adams Camp analysis area. To support the harvest activities, about 5 miles of temporary road construction/decommission is needed.

Vegetation treatments would include fuel removal, hand and mechanical on-site treatments, and prescribed burning to protect private property, Forest Service Rental Cabins, historic buildings, and public evacuation routes. Treatments would create fuel breaks to facilitate wildfire control and decrease risk to life and property for area residents and visitors.

The table below shows silvicultural treatment, logging systems and temporary road construction proposed by unit.

Unit Number	Silvicultural Treatment	Logging System	Est. Acres	Est. Miles of Temporary Road
2	Commercial Thin	Tractor	22	0.0
3	Commercial Thin with Group Selection	Tractor	54	0.0
4	Commercial Thin	Tractor	31	0.0
5	Commercial Thin with Group Selection	Tractor	41	0.07
6	Commercial Thin	Tractor	60	0.19
7	Commercial Thin	Tractor	50	0.38
8	Commercial Thin	Tractor	30	0.23
9	Commercial Thin	Tractor	22	0.0
10	Commercial Thin	Cable	14	0.0
11	Commercial Thin	Cable	17	0.09
12	Commercial Thin with Group Selection	Cable	19	0.0
13	Commercial Thin	Tractor	64	0.40
14	Commercial Thin	Tractor	142	1.48
15	Commercial Thin with Group Selection	Tractor	63	0.57
16	Commercial Thin	Cable	24	0.0
17	Commercial Thin with Group Selection	Tractor	56	0.0
18	Commercial Thin with Group Selection	Tractor	25	0.0
19	Commercial Thin	Tractor	112	0.82
20	Regeneration	Tractor	29	0.0
21	Regeneration	Tractor	5	0.0
22	Commercial Thin	Tractor	11	0.0
23	Regeneration	Tractor	7	0.0
24	Regeneration	Tractor	17	0.26
25	Commercial Thin with Group Selection	Tractor	13	0.27
26	Pre-Commercial Thin	Hand	116	0.30
27	Manual *	Hand	76	0.0
28	Manual *	Hand	4	0.0
29	Manual *	Hand	40	0.0
30	Manual *	Hand	29	0.0
31	Manual *	Hand	18	0.0
32	Regeneration	Tractor	13	0.0
33	Pre-Commercial Thin	Hand	268	0.06
Total			1492	5.12

*** Manual Treatments:** These stands are generally dense with moderate-to-heavy crown fuel and may contain understory shrubs, grasses, or forbs. Fire tolerant species like ponderosa pine and western larch are present as well as fire intolerant trees such as lodgepole pine and grand fir. Stands proposed for manual treatment generally are located in or adjacent to riparian areas. Such manual treatments like non-commercial thinning, hand-piling, raking, pruning, brushing, etc. would be necessary to reduce ladder fuels, construct containment lines or rearrange fuels for safe and effective prescribed burning. After treatment, the hazardous fuels would be left un-piled and reduced using prescribed fire or hazardous fuels may be hand piled and burned in areas near private land or evacuation routes to reduce the potential fire hazard.

Your comments are important!

I invite you to participate in the analysis and further refinement of this proposed action by letting me know if you have issues or concerns with the proposed activities. Written comments can be mailed to me at the address above, or sent via facsimile to (208) 983-4099.

To assure your written comments are fully considered during the analysis of this project, please submit your comments by July 25, 2011. Comments submitted after that date will be accepted, but our ability to respond effectively could be reduced. Please note that all comments received will be included in the public record; therefore, names and addresses of participants cannot be kept confidential.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding this project, please feel free to contact me or David Harper at the Nez Perce National Forest office in Grangeville or call (208) 983-1950.

Thank you for your participation in the management of the Nez Perce National Forest.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas D. Osen
THOMAS D. OSEN
District Ranger

Enclosure (1)